



**Opening Statement of Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce**

Markup of H.R. 4259, the *Think Differently about Education Act*; H.R. 5349, the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act*; H.R. 5110, the *Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act*; H.J. Res. 88, *Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program"*; H.R. 4957, the *Department of Labor Succession Act*; H.R. 5339, the *RETIRE Act*; H.R. 5337, the *Retirement Proxy Protection Act*; H.R. 5338, the *No Discrimination In My Benefits Act*; and H.R. 5340, the *Providing Complete Information To Retirement Investors Act*

September 14, 2023

(As prepared for delivery)

The Committee is meeting today to discuss and mark up nine bills. This is the largest markup of the year to date, so, in an effort to save time, I'd like to run through each item on the agenda quickly.

First, we have H.R. 4259, the *Think Differently about Education Act of 2023*, sponsored by Rep. Molinaro. This bill requires government agencies to notify parents of their right to seek assistance from outside experts when determining the educational plan for their child with disabilities.

We have H.R. 5349, the *Crucial Communism Teaching Act*, sponsored by Rep. Salazar before us today. This legislation provides additional information to help teachers educate American schoolchildren about the political ideology of communism.

Also, we are marking up H.R. 5110, the *Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act*, sponsored by Rep. Green. H.R. 5110 clarifies that the Department of Education cannot prevent K-12 schools from using certain federal funds to support hunting and archery programs.

Next, we have a *Congressional Review Act* resolution sponsored by Rep. McClain that would stop President Biden's latest free college scheme. Biden's IDR plan is estimated to cost as much as \$559 billion—making it the most expensive regulation in history.

Then, the Committee will consider H.R. 4957, the *Department of Labor Succession Act*, introduced by Rep. Kiley. This legislation ensures that the tenure of an Acting Secretary of Labor is subject to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act. The Biden administration is exploiting ambiguity in the law to keep Julie Su installed as the head of the Department of Labor despite not having the votes to be approved by the Senate. This situation is depriving Congress of its role in providing advice and consent on nominees, and it should never happen again.

Finally, the Committee is marking up four bills to combat ESG investing rules promulgated by the Biden administration.

H.R. 5339, Rep. Allen's *RETIRE Act*, ensures that retirees' savings are invested based on economic factors rather than woke social or political factors.

H.R. 5337, Rep. Houchin's *Retirement Proxy Protection Act*, ensures that retirement plan managers act as dutiful and prudent fiduciaries when proxy voting.

H.R. 5338, Rep. Good's *No Discrimination In My Benefits Act*, ensures that race and sex are not factors in the selection of service providers for an ERISA plan.

And H.R. 5340, Rep. Bank's *Providing Complete Information To Retirement Investors Act*, adds notice requirements for certain defined contribution plans under ERISA with respect to participant-directed investments.

Every bill on the docket today is a clear-cut, commonsense proposal worthy of a yes vote and, with that, I look forward to the markup and yield to the Ranking Member for an opening statement.